

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

### Regarding Amendments

In the specification, a "Cross Reference to Related Applications" section has been added to reference related applications. These corrections are of a clerical nature and do not add "new matter".

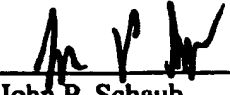
### Request for Allowance

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,  
THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP

Dated: January 12, 2004

  
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John P. Schaub  
Reg. No. 42,125

Thelen Reid & Priest LLP  
P.O. Box 640640  
San Jose, CA 95164-0640  
Tel. (408) 292-5800  
Fax. (408) 287-8040